



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
1474 Rodeo Road
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To:
3100 (920) P

January 11, 2008

EMS Transmission – 01/14/08
Information Bulletin No. NM-2008-003, Change 1

To: DMs and FMs

From: State Director

Subject: Process for Notifying Surface Owners that Federal Minerals Have Been
Nominated for Lease

This Information Bulletin (IB) rescinds IB No. 2008-003, Process for Notifying Surface Owners that Federal Minerals Have Been Nominated for Lease. The IB is changed to include the sample form letter to be sent out as part of the nomination process (Attachment 1).

Conflicts between surface owners and lease operators in New Mexico and throughout the Western States are receiving more attention. This is evidenced by the Surface Owners Protection Act passed by the last session of the New Mexico Legislature. Therefore, BLM New Mexico will begin notifying the surface owners when Federal minerals located within their lands are nominated for lease.

Effective for the April 2008, Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, anyone who nominates a split estate Federal lease parcel in New Mexico must include the name and address of the current private surface owner before the parcel is approved and offered for sale. Notice of this intent was issued at the October 2007 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale. A formal Notice to Lessees will also be issued.

Prior to the lease sale, NM (920) will notify the private landowner, via a letter, of the likely sale of the parcel, and the appropriate Field Office will receive a copy of the letter to place in the lease file. The form letter is attached.

Questions about this process should be directed to Gloria Baca, Land Law Examiner, at 505-438-7566.

Authenticated by:
Diane Ellenburg
Staff Assistant

Signed by:
Linda S. C. Rundell

2 Attachments:
1 – Form Letter (2 pp)
2 – Letter to Operators and NTL-2007-01 (5 pp)

Distribution

WO (310), L Street, Rm. 501 – 1